

## NEWSLETTER

Winter 2016

What a year! It certainly seems people around the World are looking for change. So much can and did happen in 12 months:

- 04.01.16 China suspends equity markets on market fall
- 11.01.16 European Central Bank (ECB) hints at further policy loosening
- 29.01.16 Bank of Japan (B of J) moves to negative rates
- 19.02.16 UK strikes EU reforms deal
- 10.03.16 ECB boosts stimulus, announces Targeted Long Term Refinancing Operations
- 16.03.16 US Fed rates forecast lowered
- 28.04.16 B of J surprises by not extending stimulus
- 08.06.16 ECB starts corporate bond purchases
- 23.06.16 Britain votes to leave the EU
- 13.07.16 Theresa May succeeds David Cameron as Prime Minister
- 04.08.16 Bank of England cuts rates, increases bond buying
- 21.09.16 B of J sets specific yield curve targets
- 28.09.16 OPEC announces potential oil output cuts
- 03.10.16 Prime Minister commits to sign Article 50 in March 2017
- 08.11.16 Donald Trump wins US election
- 04.12.16 Renzi loses Italian referendum

Despite all of this activity and uncertainty we have seen equity markets perform well, with the FTSE 100 in 2016 up 19.1%, but not without volatility, which always creates opportunities.



2017 is expected to be just as interesting, we therefore move into the New Year with confidence as we expect to see the benefits of our collaboration with Vestra go from strength to strength.

### HMGV Model portfolios

Around 85% of our clients have now moved to the class leading HMGV Discretionary Model Portfolios, benefiting from the increased speed of response we are now able to deliver when global events happen and the new funds Vestra Wealth have introduced to our proposition.

### Change at Howe Maxted Group

As part of our expansion plan, we are pleased to announce the arrival of a new Senior Financial Planning Consultant, Paul Stevens Dip PFS. Some of you may have met Paul already as he has been joining John Austin on some client visits to obtain a better understanding of our business and client proposition. Thank you if you have agreed to accommodate Paul at one of your meetings, this has been extremely helpful. There is no better introduction for Paul to the personalised business relationships we strive for.

During 2017 we expect to announce further appointments to reflect Howe Maxted's continued commitment to deliver high standards of service to our clients. Please drop either John or Laura a line telling us the aspects of our service you are pleased with and the aspects where you feel we can improve. Your feedback is always welcome and valued.

### **Stuart Robson – former Howe Maxted Group Director**

Some of you attended the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Stuart's Retirement at Walton Heath Golf Club. The weather was glorious and made all the more memorable by one of Stuart's dogs running through the Club House looking for Stuart, whilst he was taking his shower. Fortunately Stuart managed to quickly dress and retrieve the dog before it entered the dining room!



### **Exam news**

Ryan Ford has grabbed the headlines here in 2016 and now holds his Certificate in Discretionary Investment Management, as well as making strong progress towards his Diploma in Financial Planning.

### **2016 Charity Walk**

Laura Hollands completed the 21 Bridges of London for Jimmy Mizen walk again in July. Although once again she had a fantastic day, she vowed she will never do it again – now her feet have healed – watch this space!

### **2017 Charity Walk**

We will once again be joining with the Sidcup Rotary Club Walk on the 13<sup>th</sup> May. Details to follow – all are welcome to join us.

*This is the time of year for reflection and new resolutions, for positive thoughts such as 'You are never too old to set another goal or dream' – although John's goal of playing for Chelsea may have to remain a dream – sorry John!*

**With Best Wishes for 2017**

**John, Laura, Paul, David, Lynn, Mark, Julie, Carole, Ryan and Mike**